

Key Parasha Information



Summary

On the Second Day of Shavuot, we read about the Shalosh Regalim (Three Foot Festivals) where people from all over Israel, would walk to the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem).

We also read the Megillah of Rut (Ruth).

Rut was originally non-Jewish but she accepted the Torah, just like we did as a nation on the original Shavuot. Rut was very poor and according to Jewish law, was allowed to take some grain from farmer's fields. She impressed the owner because of her modesty.

Later on, she got married to this owner, had children and grandchildren and she became the great grandmother of King David.

Discovery

Did you know that in Israel, they only have one day of Shavuot?

Did you know that Hashem expects the other nations to keep seven mitzvot that help a society run fairly and smoothly?

Did you know that in Israel, many, many people still walk to the kotel on Shavuot morning? It's incredible to see people coming out of every street, every alleyway, every pathway, every block of flats and every hotel and head towards the Kotel.

Parasha Thinking

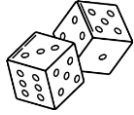


- 1) If you lived far away in the North of Israel, where would you stay, so that you'd reach the Beit HaMikdash on time for the three Foot Festivals?
- 2) Rut wasn't stealing the grain but there were laws about what she was allowed to take. She could take grain from the corners of the field, any grain that the workers dropped, she could take and any bundles of grain that had been forgotten about, would be permitted. Which of these three do you think would be most useful to her?
- 3) How does the word, Israel, link to the Parasha?

Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

Games

1) Norwegian Foot Game



Link: Three times a year, the Jewish people walked to the Beit HaMikdash.

Make a boys' circle and a girls' circle and hold hands. Pick someone to start according to a category oldest/ tallest/ most wobbly teeth etc. This person moves his/her foot and puts it beside the person's foot to his/her right, so that their feet are touching. Then that person moves his/her foot to the next foot to their right and so on. Each person has to stay in balance - if they fall down, they are out of the game. In the end, the last person left standing wins.

2) Add Words on the Beat

Link: Rut was allowed to add the barley from the farm, to her basket

Everyone taps their knees and claps, in a beat. The first person starts off with one word and each person in the circle, adds one word, on the beat. (e.g. My – school – is – far – away – so – I – have – to – get – up – very – early – and – it – makes – me – feel – tired – all - day. Etc.

3) David Melech Yisrael

Link: Rut was the Great Grandmother of King David

Advance prep: If children service leader doesn't know this song, please listen to this version before Chag <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em2ljb2WyE>.

Children service leader sings David Melech Yisrael with the group. Going faster and faster each time.

Challenge the group to sing David Melech in different genres and styles of music e.g. Rock, Opera, Bebop etc.

Story (One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)



“Can we walk there too, Mrs Goodberg?” asked Eli.

“What do you mean?” replied his teacher.

“You said that on Shavuot, lots and lots of the people still walk to the Kotel (Western Wall), so can we do that also?” Eli asked, with pure innocence.

Mrs Goodberg smiled at him warmly and said, “Ah, I understand what you are asking. What I meant was, lots and lots of people from all over Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) walk to the Kotel. We don't live near enough. Sadly, we'd never get there on time.”

“Oh!” said Eli, glumly. “How long? How long would it take us to walk there?”

Mrs Goodberg knew that this was important to Eli so she opened Google Maps on the Big Screen. She typed in the detail and the information came back saying it would take 39 days to walk there from their school in London. The other children started giggling but Eli was silent. Mrs Goodberg knew how important this was to Eli so she gently shushed her class. She looked at Eli and spoke to him respectfully, “I know it says 39 days but I think it would take much longer than that. What about stopping to eat food? What about stopping to sleep? Can people who have small legs actually walk as fast as it says the pace is? I just think it would actually take around 100 days. I'm so sorry, Eli, but I just don't see this happening.”

Eli was glum all day. From the minute he heard that people go to the Kotel on Shavuot, he was desperate to be there, too. Mrs Goodberg had a quick chat with his mum, just to give her the heads up about how he had been feeling and Eli saw them both smile.

When Eli got home from school, he was unusually quiet and he didn't want a snack either. At supper time, Mum and Dad announced that they have a surprise for the family that they booked four weeks ago. It had been so hard to keep this surprise. The surprise is that they are going to be going to Yerushalayim for Shavuot. “Really?” Eli questioned as he jumped with joy. “I can't believe it. My wish has come true! Can we? Please can we walk to the Kotel with all the other people?”

Mum and Dad smiled at each other. “That was the plan all along!”

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to Shavuot?
- 2) Have you ever wished for the impossible and then it came true?
- 3) Why do you think that Eli wanted this so badly?